

Job 36:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Every man may see it; man may behold it afar off.

Analysis

Every man may see it (כָּל־אָדָם חָזַו־בוֹ, kol-adam chazu-vo)—Elihu emphasizes the universal accessibility of God's self-revelation in creation. The phrase kol-adam (all mankind, every human) with chazah (to see, perceive, behold) indicates that God's works are visible to all. This isn't specialized knowledge requiring esoteric initiation—it's available to any who look.

Man may behold it afar off (אֱנוֹשׁ יָבִיט מֵרָחוֹק, enosh yabit merachok)—The parallel line uses enosh (mortal man, frail humanity) with nabat (to look at, regard, consider) and rachok (distance, remoteness). The imagery suggests both spatial distance (viewing mountains, stars, horizons) and the infinite gap between Creator and creature. Even from our limited, distant perspective, we can perceive God's greatness in His works. Job has been so consumed with his own suffering that he's lost this wider perspective. Elihu calls him to lift his eyes from his immediate pain to the vast theater of God's glory. This sets the stage for God's revelation in the whirlwind (38:1), where the LORD will overwhelm Job with questions about creation.

Historical Context

Ancient astronomy and natural observation formed a key part of wisdom tradition. Without modern scientific instruments, observers still recognized patterns in the heavens, the majesty of mountains, the power of storms—all pointing to a transcendent Creator. This verse anticipates Paul's teaching that 'the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen' (Romans 1:20).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does focusing exclusively on personal suffering blind us to the broader testimony of God's glory in creation?
2. What does it mean that we can only behold God's works 'from afar'—what does this teach about human finitude?
3. How should observing creation's testimony lead us from intellectual acknowledgment to heartfelt worship?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	אִם	יִרְאוּ	בְּ	אֵין	יִבְיֶה	מִכְחוֹק:
H3605	Every man	may see	H0	it man	may behold	it afar off
	H120	H2372		H582	H5027	H7350

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